

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T USNATO 4217

E.O. 11652:GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: SURVIVABILITY OF THE NATO HEADQUARTERS

REF: A. AC/237-A/137

B. AC/237-D/123

C. AC/237-WP/86

D. USNATO 3372

1. SUMMARY. PER REF A, THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON SEPTEMBER 19 TO CONSIDER ABOVE SUBJECT. BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE REF B, WHICH IS A RE-WRITE (BY VINCENT, IS) OF REF C IN THE FORM OF A DRAFT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. REF B HAS BEEN POUCHED TO WASHINGTON. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE FIND REF B A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OVER ITS PREDECESSOR, PARTICULARLY IN ITS MORE OBJECTIVE TREATMENT OF THE ALTERNATIVE OF RECONSTITUTING NATO HEADQUARTERS ELSEWHERE AS A MEANS OF
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PROVIDING PROTECTION.

3. RECOGNIZING US PROBLEM OF FINDING FUNDS TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A HARDENED FACILITY AT EVERE, VINCENT HINTED

THAT THE EUROGROUP MIGHT FINANCE THE PROJECT THROUGH THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. VINCENT HAS BROACHED THE IDEA WITH STEWART OF THE UK DELEGATION, WHO AT LEAST DID NOT REACT UNFAVORABLY. COMMENT: I HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE IDEA, IN VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE US BURDENSARING INITIATIVE AND THE EDIP AND THE LOW PRIORITY I ATTACH TO THIS MATTER. FURTHER, US CONCURRENCE WITH THE PROJECT CANNOT IN ANY CASE BE CONTINGENT UPON THE VAGUE POSSIBILITY OF EDIP FUNDING. IF US IS TO AGREE TO CONSTRUCTION OF A HARDENED SITE, WHICH I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT, IT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY A SHARE OF THE COST. END COMMENT.

5. AGREEMENT TO REF B WOULD ESTABLISH A COMMITMENT FOR UNDERTAKING AN ARCHITECT/ENGINEERING STUDY THAT WILL EXAMINE THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF SEVERAL PROTECTION OPTIONS. COST OF STUDY IS ESTIMATED AT \$25,000. RESULTS WOULD FORM A BASIS FOR A LATER DECISION AS TO SPECIFIC PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO BE PROVIDED. WE MUST EMPHASIZE THE POINT HOWEVER THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE PAPER GOES BEYOND SIMPLY CALLING FOR AN ARCHITECT/ENGINEERING STUDY; IT ESTABLISHES THE PRINCIPLE THAT PROTECTION AT EVER IS NEEDED.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND OUR ALLIES BELIEVE THAT RELOCATION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS ESSENTIAL STAFF AND COMMITTEES TO ANOTHER EUROPEAN CAPITAL MAKES NO SENSE BECAUSE A CONFLICT SITUATION NECESSITATING DEPARTURE FROM EVERE WOULD IMPLY AN EQUALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THEY FEEL THAT RELOCATION TO OR RECONSTRUCTION IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE IN NORTH AMERICA MAY BE ACCEPTABLE BUT NOT AS THE ONLY SOLUTION. IT IS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY DIFFICULT FOR EUROPEANS IF THE TOP BODY OF THE ALLIANCE ABANDONED THE CONTINENT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONFLICT. THEREFORE, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND OUR ALLIES BELIEVE THAT SOME FORM OF PROTECTION MUST BE PROVIDED AT EVERE, AT LEAST FOR THE EARLY STAGES OF A CONFLICT.

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6. AT SEPTEMBER 19 COEC MEETING WE SHALL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE HARDENED SITE OPTION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY IN ACCORDANCE WITH WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, WITH WHICH I FULLY AGREE. USNATO IS ISOLATED, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT IT WILL REMAIN SO. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WASTEFUL, IN MY VIEW, TO EXPAND NATO FUNDS (OR FOR THAT MATTER FUNDS FROM ANY SOURCE) ON CONSTRUCTION OF HARDENED FACILITY AT EVERE WHEN SAME RESOURCES MIGHT BE UTILIZED TO FAR BETTER POLITICAL AND MILITARY EFFECT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ALLIANCE'S CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS NO POINT IN SPENDING EVEN THE SMALL AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF HARDENING THE SITE.

RUMSFELD.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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